

BRIEFLY TOLD

A Chicago company has put on the market a crawling yard crane. This is the ordinary locomotive crane made more useful by applying to it the mechanical locomotion used by war tanks. It can turn around in any one spot or in the circle of a radius equal to its own length.

A San Francisco motorist has discovered that chicken wire laid over deep and shifting sand or mud provides almost perfect traction for the automobile. He recommends a piece of wire three or four feet wider than the car and two or more times the wheel base.

In New Guinea, several explorers report, the natives set up long bamboo sticks, looped at the end, in places where there are many large spiders. During the night the spiders spin their webs on the bamboo loops, which the natives use for fishing nets to catch the smaller species of fish.

The natives of the Congo region in Africa use salt of potassium instead of salt of sodium for seasoning their food. This salt they obtain from the ashes of certain plants and they regard the ordinary imported salt as insipid, buying it only because it is cheaper than the native product.

It takes just six hours to convert a growing forest tree into a paper printed and sold on the streets.

The Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce proposes to build 1,000 houses at a moderate price this year and sell them to families, on easy terms. Local architects offer their services without charge and material dealers have offered concessions.

Rainfall is so rare on the Rock of Gibraltar that the inhabitants have to store the rain in reservoirs during the wet season, from which it is filtered to a few public fountains on certain hours of the day.

A party of explorers bound for Baffin Land have taken along a quantity of foodstuffs prepared by a new process of dehydration, which, it is said, leaves the dried products capable of restoration to their original bulk, taste and color by merely soaking in water. The cell walls are not broken down by the process of dehydration. Fruits, vegetables and meats were thus prepared.

A hot July sun focused its rays through a flaw in the window pane upon the bed on which a seven-month-old child was sleeping in Ben-wool, West Virginia. The bed was set afire and the baby burned to death.

A proposal recently introduced in the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa asks that a new province be formed of all British Columbia north of the fifty-second parallel and Yukon territory.

A cat, accidentally jailed in a crate protecting an automobile, traveled from Detroit to Sydney, Australia. It was carefully nursed and is the pet and pride of the company in whose auto crate it had taken its mealless voyage of seven weeks across the world and over two oceans.

The first airplane garage has made its debut in London. Skilled mechanics under qualified ground engineers make repairs "while you wait."

The highest golf course in the United States is at Dawson, New Mexico, with the altitude of the putting green of the first hole at 6,774 feet.

The traffic of drugs in New York City, is carried on so openly that narcotic addicts recently called a strike and picketed a Broadway stand of a purveyor who was peddling cocaine, heroin and morphine at \$1.50 a "deck" from an automobile drawn up against the curbing. The strikers objected to the action of the vender who had diluted the quantities and they were warning off prospective buyers until the quality was restored. Police found ten thousand dollars worth of drugs in the car.

The "wordometer" is a new invention which is hitched up to the space bar of the typewriter and tells the number of words which has been written.

The liaison-runner who penetrated the German lines in the forest of Argonne, carrying the message that saved the "lost battalion," recently died of tuberculosis in New York City, alone and in great poverty. With the exception of his Distinguished Service Cross, Croix de Guerre and Medaille Militaire, he had pawned and sold everything he owned.

Natives on the coast of Norway pick up for fuel on the seashore wood that has been carried by the Gulf Stream from the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. Palms of Hayti are also among the finds. The current of the Gulf Stream is faster than that of the Amazon.

Archeological investigators in New Zealand have discovered evidence of a highly civilized race antedating the Maoris, and probably Asiatic in origin. Soapstone articles, some of which resemble the traditional figure of the Buddha, lend support to this belief. The subsidence of the surface of the Awanui Swamp, thousands of acres in extent, has disclosed the existence of ancient drains, miles in extent, running in parallel lines, perfectly straight, and with numerous right-angle cross-drains.

A fox, believed to be suffering with rabies, recently attacked a planter near Huntsville, Alabama, overpowering him and sinking his teeth into his flesh in several places.

Two men employed in the construction of a water tube in Erie, Pennsylvania, were recently swept nearly a mile through the concrete tube when a temporary dam let go during a terrific rainstorm. They were carried to the lake and thrown upon the sand where they recovered. Nearly an inch and a half of rain fell.

Ice cream in especially constructed containers holding five hundred gallons is being shipped to China from Vancouver, British Columbia. The Chinese are showing great partiality to ice cream but the Japanese do not regard it favorably.

A company is being organized in Belgium to exploit papyrus, which grows in the Belgian Congo.

A moose near Easton, Maine, attacked an automobile, striking it with such force that it was thrown into a ditch. The machine was not overturned and the occupants were unhurt.

The natives in the vicinity cultivate the lake bed of Lake Cirtnitz, in Mid-eastern Europe during the summer, the waters having departed through great fissures in the bed of the lake. In autumn the waters return rapidly, throwing up cascades of foam as if from blowholes. The lake is probably fed in winter by water coming to it underground from a body of water higher in the mountains.

In Spain a system of aerial fish transport is about to be put into operation whereby the inhabitants of Madrid will be assured of a fresh supply of fish, shrimps and shucked oysters. It now takes 24 hours to reach the capital from the seacoast by rail but the airplane service will deliver the goods in three hours.

Two typical southwestern products are to be perpetuated when a huge bronze with spirited figures of cowboy and longhorn steer is placed in the State House grounds at Austin, Texas. The old-time cowboy is now nearly extinct and fat Herefords have replaced the longhorn.

The finest climate in the world is said to be found on the Island of Majorca, off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea. The temperature remains practically at 76 degrees with breezes blowing constantly.

The beams and rafters of a temple at Tokio are held in place by human hair cables. It was customary at one time for the people of Japan to give some of their hair as a free-will offering when a temple was being built. The cable is seven inches in diameter.

Lacking an adequate supply of animal fats, the Chinese turn to vegetable oils, which they use as we use butter and lard.

Known generally as the "coldest inland lake," the waters of Lake Superior in the vicinity of the head of the lakes, for the first time in several years, have been warm enough this summer to permit bathing to a marked extent.

Prohibition officers in New York City are using sponges to salvage evidence when the illegal possessor of liquor spills it.

Yellowstone National Park provides a hay ranch solely to feed the park buffalos when winter snows cover the pastures. The park herd has grown so rapidly that this ranch provides insufficient food. For the benefit of the assistant Secretary of the Interior a "buffalo run" was staged recently in which more than five hundred animals were driven down from hill and plateau and out across the plains.

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